

Weapons and Range Safety



Terminal Learning Objective

Action: Recommend safety control measures for weapon handling in garrison and tactical environments.

Conditions: Given scenarios involving weapon mishaps.

Standards: A minimum of two feasible and plausible recommendations based on the Composite Risk Management process must be provided.

References

- AR 385-10, *The Army Safety Program*, 23 August 2007
- AR 385-63, *Range Safety*, 19 June 2003
- DA Pam 385-63, *Range Safety*, 10 April 2003
- FM 3-22-9, *Rifle Marksmanship M16A1, M16A2/3, M16A4, and M4 Carbine*, April 2003
- FM 5-19, *Composite Risk Management*, August 2006

Lesson Data

- Classroom Safety Requirements: None
- Lesson Risk Assessment Level: Low
- Environmental Considerations: None
- Evaluation: You will be evaluated on your participation during class and your responses based on given scenarios

Overview

- Weapons handling
(avoiding negligent
discharges)
- Range safety



Enabling Learning Objective A

Action: Recommend safety control measures for preventing the negligent discharge of weapons.

Conditions: Given scenarios involving negligent discharge mishaps.

Standards: A minimum of two feasible and plausible recommendations based on the Composite Risk Management process must be provided.

What is Negligent Discharge?

Negligent Discharge

The discharging of
of
a weapon without
intending to
discharge the
weapon. **USACR/S**

Negligent Discharge

Why be Concerned?

- Accidental shootings cause
 - Waste
 - Damage
 - Injuries
 - Death!



One Example of Negligent Discharge



Carelessness leading to the loss of life of a Soldier sitting in his tent

Disturbing Trend

Army accidents have
revealed a disturbing trend:

Our Soldiers are being killed
and injured by Soldiers and
improper weapons handling!!

What are Contributing Factors?



Negligent Discharge Contributing Factors

- Individual errors
- Ineffective supervision
- Situational circumstances

Individual Errors

- Failure to follow procedures (lack of self-discipline or adherence to standard)
- Complacency / over-confidence
- Inattentiveness / lack of muzzle awareness
- Insufficient training

Individual Errors

*Continu
ed*

- Taking shortcuts and trading safety and standards for speed and execution
- Negligence / carelessness / irresponsibility
- Improper or inadequate clearing

Ineffective Supervision

- Failure to enforce standards
- Inadequate weapon training
- Failure to be involved with and overseeing Soldiers' activities
- Recommending shortcuts and trading safety and standards for speed and execution

Situational Circumstances

- Many negligent discharges occur in fixed structures (tents/buildings)
- Service members cleaning or doing functions checks
- Potential for accidental discharge while conducting operations is much higher, especially during movement

Scenario 1 OEF/OIF

- While cleaning personal weapons Service Member (SM) 1 failed to maintain muzzle awareness and conducted a 9MM function check using magazine with live rounds.
- Consequently, the slide of the 9MM went forward discharging a round, which went through the SM 1's left hand, and then struck SM 2 sitting on the floor in the lower left back.

Scenario 1 OEF/OIF

*Continu
ed*

- SM 1 received a minor wound
- SM 2 received a critical injury and later died of his wound

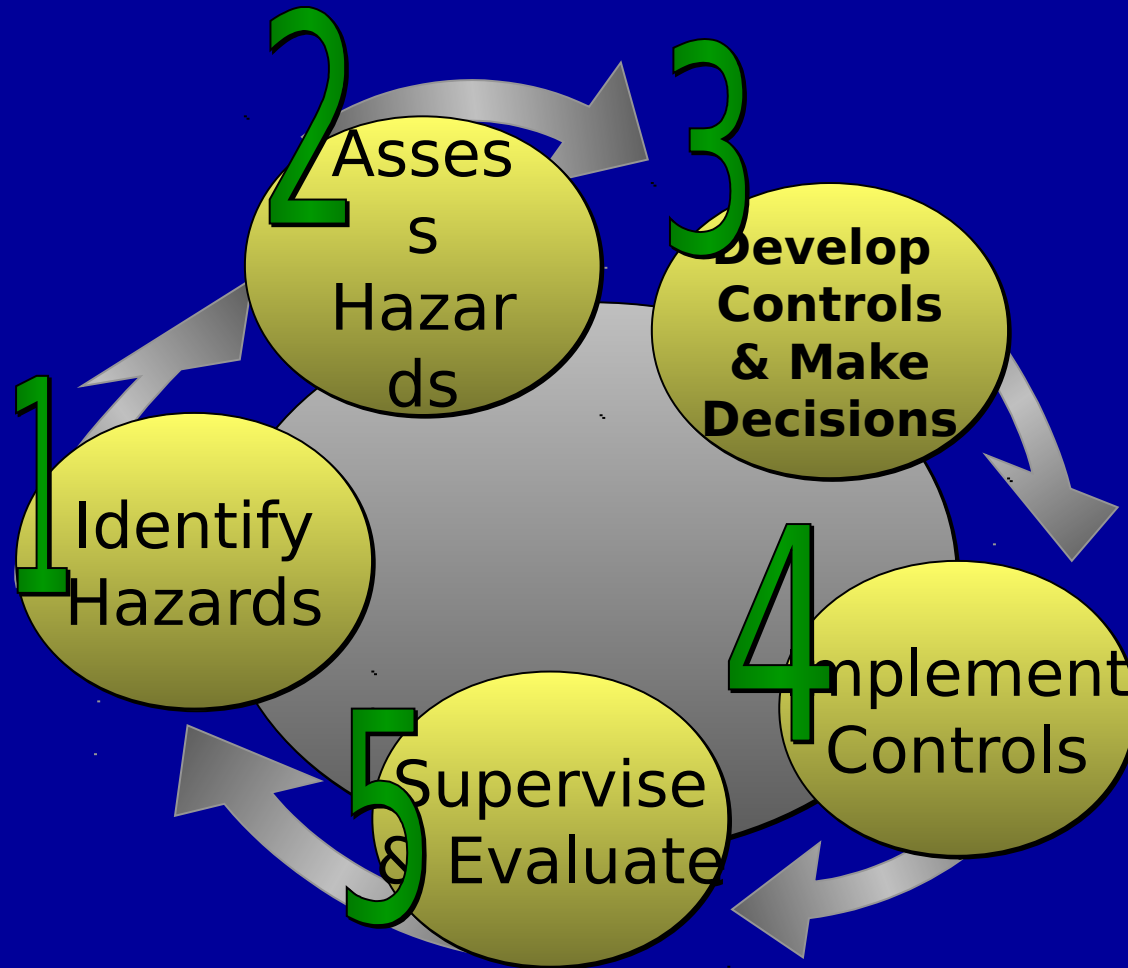
Scenario 2 OEF/OIF

- While riding in the vehicle, Soldier placed the weapon across his lap with the muzzle pointing towards the door instead of between his legs with the muzzle pointed toward the floor.
- He prepared to exit the vehicle and weapon discharged resulting in injury to his arm and leg.



What are measures
for controlling /
preventing
negligent
discharges?

Composite Risk Management 5-Step Process



Preventing Negligent Discharges

- **Everyone has the responsibility for safety**
 - Individuals
 - Supervisors (all levels)
 - Leaders (formal and informal)

Leaders and Supervisors “Must”

- Apply Composite Risk Management (CRM) process to all situations
- Be trained on all weapons within the unit
- Be involved and engaged in the oversight of safety
- Ensure weapons discipline is maintained
- Refrain from trading safety for shortcuts

Leaders and Supervisors “Must”

Continu

- Train Soldiers to recognize weapon^{ed} status
 - Red – round in chamber & on safe
 - Amber – magazine in chamber or rounds in feed tray but no rounds chambered, weapons on safe
 - Green – weapons cleared and on safe

Leaders and Supervisors “Must”

*Continu
ed*

- Do spot checks for Soldier compliance to standards
- Ask questions and have Soldiers “back brief”
- Ensure weapon preventive maintenance, checks and services (PMCS) are conducted at least monthly

Additional Control Measures: Education and Training

- Ensure Soldiers are qualified and proficient with weapons
 - Annual range qualification focuses on target engagement
 - Proficiency includes all tasks associated with target engagement

Additional Control Measures: Education and Training

Continued

- Conduct weapon classes
 - Familiarization training
 - Proper clearing procedures
- Conduct periodic re-enforcement training
- Cross-training Soldiers, make sure they become proficient with all unit's weapons

Additional Control Measures: Education and Training

Continued

For proficiency train:

- Clearing procedures
- Loading / unloading procedures
- Immediate action
- Remedial action, in addition to:

Additional Control Measures: Education and Training

Continued

For proficiency train:

- PMCS
- Disassembly / reassembly
- Functions check
- Weapons maintenance

Additional Control Measures: Publications and Notifications

- Issue Theater level guidance
- Establish and enforce weapons clearing Standing Operating Procedure (SOP)

Other Control Measures

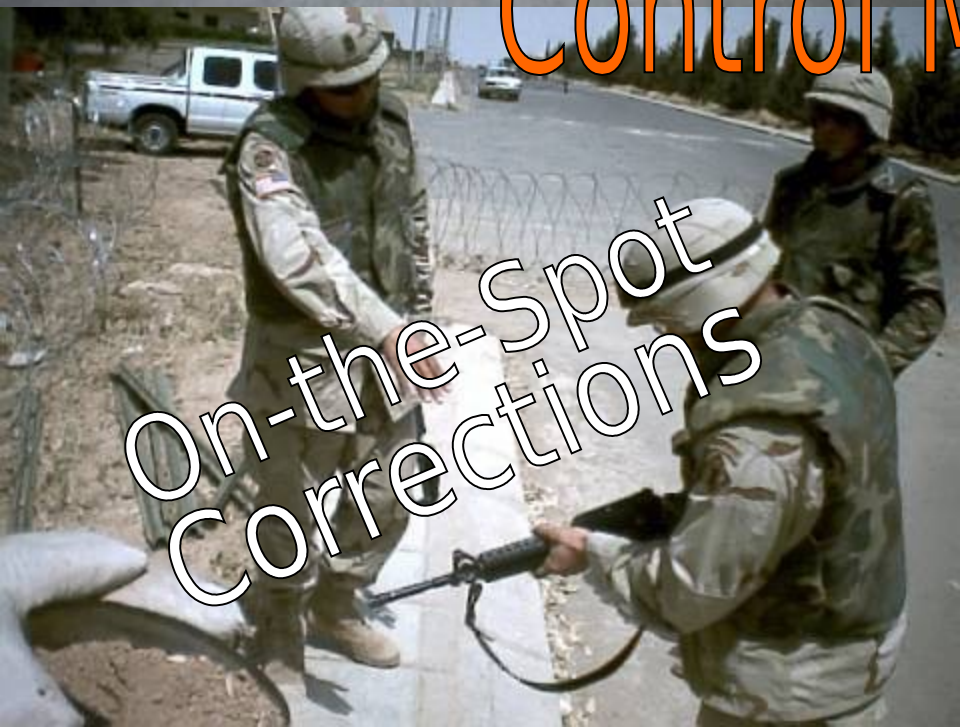
- Provide weapons clearing barrels / portable containers
- Have trained leadership/supervision at clearing points and during weapons maintenance
- Conduct weapons and ammunition checks
- Discuss and apply lessons learned



Clearing Barrel



Supervision



On-the-Spot
Corrections

Control Measures



"Bullet Stop"
Portable Clearing
Barrel

Avoid Negligent Discharge

T.H.I.N.K

- **T**reat every weapon as if it's loaded
- **H**andle every weapon with care
- **I**dentify the target before you fire
- **N**ever point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot
- **K**eeep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire

Check on Learning

- Name two control measures that supervisors and leaders should implement to help ensure safe weapon handling.
- After returning from a mission, you notice a Soldier's weapon has not be cleared – what should you do?

Range Safety

AR 385-63, Range Safety
DA Pam 385-63, Range
Safety

Enabling Learning Objective B

Action: Identify control measures for safe range operations.

Conditions: Given scenarios involving range mishaps.

Standards: A minimum of two feasible and plausible recommendations based on the Composite Risk Management process must be identified.

Range Safety Certification Program

- Must be established for firing exercises and maneuver operations
- Normally implemented at battalion or equivalent level
- Will be integrated into organizational training

DA Pam 385-63 PG 7

Range Safety Certification Program

Continued

- Used to train and qualify personnel in the duties for firing exercises and maneuver operations
 - Officer-in-Charge (OIC)
 - Range Safety Officer (RSO)
- Battalion Commanders will certify, in writing, OIC and RSO to range control

DA Pam 385-63 PG 7

Range Safety Certification Program

Continued

- Battalion Commanders must ensure OIC and RSO
 - Are certified in writing
 - Meet the appointment grade requirements IAW DA Pam 385-63, Range Safety
 - Are competent and properly instructed in the performance of their duties
 - Are knowledgeable of the weapon systems and safe ammunition handling and use

Range Officer-in-Charge (OIC)

- Must receive range safety briefing
 - Provided by installation range control organization
 - On the use of the training complex as part of certification
- Will be certified in the weapon systems for which they are responsible

Range Officer-in-Charge (OIC)

Continued

- Responsible for the overall operation of the range before, during, and after live firing
- Ensures the overall safe conduct of training and proper use of the installation training complex
- OICs will be certified in the weapon systems for which they are responsible

Range Safety Officer (RSO)

- Responsible for the safe operation of the range
- Required to conduct a safety orientation before each scheduled live-fire exercise
- Ensures that all personnel comply with the safety regulations and procedures
- Ensures that a brass and ammunition check is made before the unit leaves the range

Range Safety Officer (RSO)

Continu

- Ensures that a dry-fire exercise is *ed* conducted
- Ensures that all weapons are clear and safe before firers leave the firing line
- Ensures that all weapons are clear and safe before firers leave the firing line
- The RSO **WILL NOT** be assigned any other duties

RSO Assistant / Lane Safety/Coach

- Is assigned to EACH LANE to observe and evaluate the Soldier's performance
- Ensures:
 - Soldiers are acquiring the proper target
 - Muzzle awareness is maintained
 - Weapon remains on safe until time to engage the target

NCOIC

- Assists the OIC and RSO as required
- For example, supervising personnel who are supporting the live-fire exercise

Unit Armor

- The unit armorer repairs the weapons to include replacing parts, as required

Ammunition Detail

- Responsible and accountable for all ammunition
 - Break down
 - Issue
 - Receive

Medical Personnel

- Provides medical support as required
- Performs first aid on all injuries that may occur during range operations
 - Medic can be a certified combat Life safer for stationary ranges
 - A medical vehicle will be on standby for evaluations at all times

Radio Transmitter Operator (RTO)

- Monitors all radio communications with Range Control
- Notifies the OIC of radio transmissions pertaining to his/her operation

Range Uniform Requirements

- Kevlar / helmet
- Body armor with plates
- Hearing protection
- Eye protection

Check on Learning

- QUESTION: Name two control measures that should be in place to help prevent death or injury to our Soldiers that results from negligent discharge.
- QUESTION: With those two in mind, name at least two more.

Check on Learning

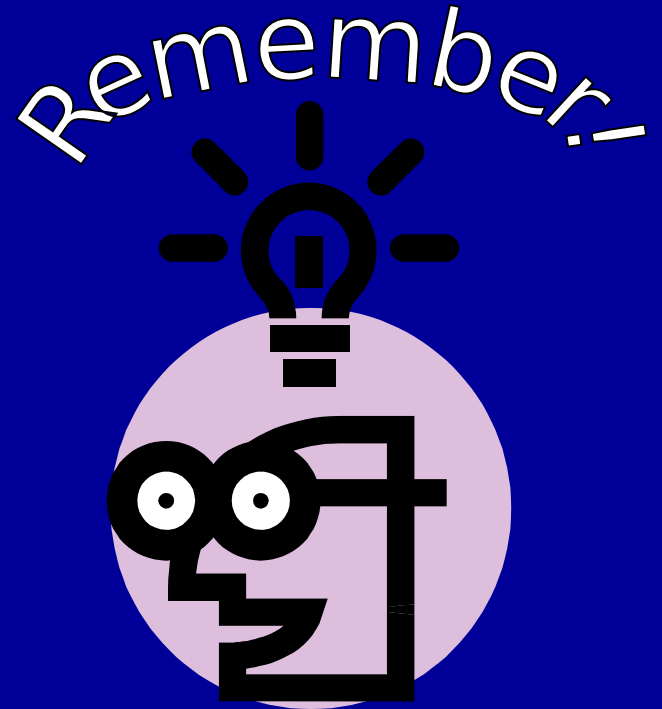
- QUESTION: What control measures should be emplaced to ensure safe Range Operations?

Summary

- Weapons handling (avoiding negligent discharges)
- Range safety

In Conclusion

- **T**reat every weapon as if it's loaded
- **H**andle every weapon with care
- **I**dentify the target before you fire
- **N**ever point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot
- **K**eeep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire



Help save lives of our Soldiers!